

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the present Amendment, claims 1-22, which are all of the pending claims, have been canceled. New claims 23-42 have been added. No new matter has been introduced into the present application by the addition of the new claims. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.


The rejection of claims 1-3, 10, 14, 16 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), as being anticipated by Rouchaud et al. or Viviani et al. is respectfully traversed. However, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been rendered moot by the addition of the new claims in the present Amendment.

The rejection of claims 4-6, 11, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouchaud et al. or Viviani et al. as applied to claims 1-3, 10, 14, 16 and 18-22 above, is respectfully traversed. However, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been rendered moot by the addition of the new claims in the present Amendment.

The objection to claims 7-9 is noted. The Examiner's statement that the subject matter of these claims is allowable is appreciated. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of new claims 23-42, which is similar in scope to the subject matter of previous claims 7-9, should also be allowable.

Withdrawal of all of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103, and the allowance of claims 23-42, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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